United Nations CRC/C/OPSC/LVA/Q/1

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Distr.: General
10 March 2015

Original: English
English, French and Spanish only

Committee on the Rights of the Child
Seventy-first session
11–29 January 2016
Item 4 of the provisional agenda
Consideration of reports of States parties

List of issues in relation to the report submitted by Latvia under article 12, paragraph 1, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

The State party is requested to submit in writing additional, updated information (15 pages maximum), if possible before 15 September 2015.

The Committee may take up any aspects of the children's rights set out in the Optional Protocol during the dialogue with the State party.

1. Please provide statistical data (disaggregated by sex, age, nationality, socioeconomic background and urban and rural residence) for the past three years on the number of:

(a) Reported acts of sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as well as other forms of exploitation, including child sex tourism, with additional information on the type of action taken as a result, including the prosecution and punishment of perpetrators;

(b) Children trafficked from or through Latvia and children trafficked within the country for the purpose of sale, prostitution, engagement in forced labour, illegal adoptions, organ transfer or pornography as defined in article 3, paragraph 1, of the Optional Protocol;

(c) Children offered, delivered, accepted by whatever means for the purpose of prostitution, engagement in forced labour, illegal adoptions, organ transfer, pornography or marriage;

(d) Child victims who have been provided assistance with reintegration or have received compensation.

2. With reference to paragraph 30 of the State party report (CRC/C/OPSC/LVA/1), please provide information on the progress made in developing a "minors' support information system".

3. Please indicate whether the State party plans to adopt a specific plan of action concerning the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

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4. Please provide up-to-date information on the steps taken to systematically raise awareness among the general public, groups of professionals who work with and for children and among children themselves, and to familiarize them with the Optional Protocol.

5. Please provide information on the resources specifically allocated and spent for the implementation of the Optional Protocol.

6. Please provide updated information on the steps taken by the State party to prevent the offences covered by the Optional Protocol and to address their root causes, in particular poverty, lack of access to education and domestic violence.

7. Please provide information on initiatives taken by the State party to prevent child sex tourism and whether the State party has taken any measures to disseminate the World Tourism Organization Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism.

8. Please clarify if all forms of sale of children, covered in article 2 (a) and article 3, paragraph 1 (a)(i), (b) and (c), of the Optional Protocol have been explicitly defined and criminalized. Please also clarify whether Latvian law clearly stipulates that a child under 18 years of age is unable to consent to any form of sexual exploitation, including child pornography and child prostitution.

9. Please provide information on the measures to develop holistic and victim-centred methods to identify children, such as unaccompanied children entering the State party, who are, or who are at risk of becoming, victims of child trafficking, sale, prostitution and pornography.

10. In the light of the information provided that "the rights of a victim belong completely to his or her legal representative", please explain further how the rights of the child to receive information, to be heard and to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration are ensured in all stages of the criminal justice process.

11. Please indicate the measures taken to ensure that child victims of offences under the Optional Protocol are treated as victims in need of recovery and reintegration, and not criminalized as offenders, as well as to avoid the stigmatization and social marginalization of such children. In particular, please clarify whether there are any circumstances under which a child involved in prostitution or any other offence under the Optional Protocol could be treated as an offender.